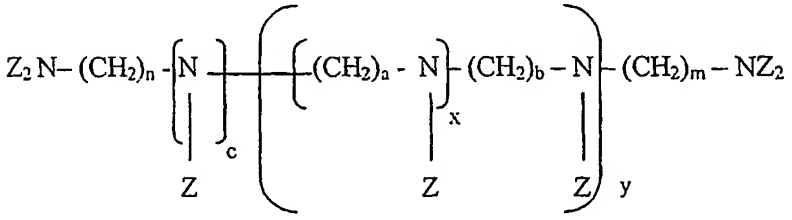
CLAIMS

1. A compound for use as, or in connection with, a white rust corrosion inhibitor for water-treatment, said compound consisting of an organophosphonate having the general formula (I):



(I)

Wherein

Z = $-CHR_1PO_3R_2$

R = H, CH_3, C_2H_5 or M

R^1 = H, CH_3, CR_3, C_6H_5, or SO_3H_2

M = alkali metal or ammonium ion

n = 0 to 10

m = 0 to 10

a = 0 to 10

b = 0 to 10

c = 0 or 1

x = 0 to 10

y = 0 to 10

2. A compound as claimed in Claim 1, in which R and R^1 each = H, n = 6, m = 6, c = 1, y = 0 whereby the compound is bis(hexamethylene)triamine-pentakis (methylene phosphonic acid), as in formula (II):

$$Z_2N-(CH_2)_6-N(Z)-(CH_2)_6-NZ_2 \qquad \text{(II)}$$

$$Z = CH_2PO_3H_2$$

3. A compound for use as a white rust corrosion inhibitor for water-treatment, said compound being a random copolymer of vinylidene diphosphonic acid and vinyl sulphonic acid in a molar ratio of between 1:1 and 1:500.

4. A compound as claimed in Claim 3, in which the molar ratio is 1:100 molar.

5. A compound as claimed in Claim 3 or Claim 4, in which the molar ratio is 1:20 molar.

6. A composition for use as, or in connection with a corrosion inhibitor for water-treatment, said composition comprising a phosphonated oligomer according to Claim 1 or a random copolymer of vinylidene diphosphonic acid and vinyl sulphonic acid, according to Claim 2, together with additives conventionally used in the water treatment industry.

7. A composition as claimed in Claim 6 in which the additives are selected from the group consisting of phosphonocarboxylic acids or salts and dispersants.

8. A composition as claimed in Claim 6 or Claim 7 in which the dispersant is a polyacrylate.

9. A composition as claimed in any one of Claims 6 to 8 in which the composition comprises a biocide.

10. A composition as claimed in any one of Claims 6 to 9 in which the phosphnocarboxylic acid or salt is a phosphonated oligomer of maleic acid, of general formula (III):

$$H[CHCO_2MCHCO_2M]_n\ PO_3M_2 \qquad (III)$$

wherein M is a cation such that the oligomer is soluble in water, and n is greater than 1.

11. A composition as claimed in any one of Claims 6 to 9, in which the polyacrylate compound is a low molecular weight polymer having a molecular weight between 2000 to 5000.

12. A method for inhibiting corrosion in, or in connection with, a water-using system, said method consisting of the application or addition to said system of an effective amount of a phosphonated oligomer according to Claim 1 or a random copolymer of vinylidene diphosphonic acid and vinyl sulphonic acid according to Claim 2 or of a composition according to Claim 3.

13. A method as claimed in Claim 12 in which the method consists of the application to a metal prior to contact with water of an effective amount of a phosphonated oligomer according to Claim 1 or a random copolymer of vinylidene diphosphonic acid and vinyl sulphonic acid according to Claim 2 or of a composition according to Claim 3.

14. A method as claimed in Claim 12 or 13, in which the oligomer or copolymer is used in an effective amount of up to 1000 ppm.

15. A method as claimed in Claims 12 to Claim 14, in which the oligomer or copolymer is used in an effective amount of up to 250 ppm.

16. A method as claimed in any one of Claims 12 to 15 in which the oligomer or copolymer is used in an effective amount of up to 100 ppm.